



# The Blotter

S E R V I C E I S J O B O N E



## Message From Chief Williams



It's great to see the number of worthwhile outreach initiatives targeting our youth today. Better than that, it's fantastic to see the positive results we're getting.

In this edition of The Blotter you will read about the successes that our SRO program is having at JFK Middle School – suspension rates down and school ratings up. At Bethune Elementary, Career Day has students dreaming big about what they can achieve in life. The Junior Peacekeepers program featured in the September edition, is continuing to make giant strides with high school and middle school students.

These programs, and others like them, are shaping our future and helping to make our city a safer place to live, work, and play. Investing in our youth is one of the most effective ways we have to ensure a positive future for Riviera Beach. No better investment can be made. Get involved in one of the many youth programs throughout our community.

Enjoy the holiday season! Just remember that this is the time of the year when criminal activity is at the highest.

Follow me on twitter: @ChiefCWilliams

To be on The Blotter's mailing list, send your request to: [police@rivierabch.com](mailto:police@rivierabch.com).

Be safe! Remember, if you see something, say something.

## Career Day 2016 at Bethune Elementary Makes a Lasting Impression

The expression “it takes a village to raise a child” was on full display at Dr. Mary Mcleod Bethune Elementary School on Tuesday, October 11 during Career Day 2016. That’s when 25 working adults – business, police, lawyers, and Physicians - came together to spend time with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and inspire youngsters to envision themselves as future professionals.

The program was the idea of Dr. Roger Duncan, M.D. who has been involved in many youth outreach initiatives over the years. “Through medical school, my residency, and professional life, I have always been interested in helping our youth,” said Dr. Duncan. “I’m always mindful that we are standing on the shoulders of others behind us who gave up a lot so that we can have opportunities. Reaching out to our youth, to me, is not an option, it’s a must.”

Dr. Duncan is also the immediate past president of T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society, which is a professional organization that focuses on helping underserved populations in our community. The organization



Dr. Roger Duncan, M.D.

played a key role in funding and helping to put together the event.

Career Day 2016 was designed as a half-day program, but turned into a full-day program with plenty of interaction between the visiting adults and students.

Instead of a large general assembly at the school, the professionals visited individual classrooms.



Principal Katrina Granger

“The intimate, personal setting worked,” said Mrs. Katrina Granger, Principal at Bethune Elementary School. “The students asked many questions and the professionals responded to each one of them. We received great feedback from the teachers saying how interesting the topics were.” “The teachers were even engaged,” laughed Mrs. Granger.

Chief Clarence Williams was one of the participants in Career Day 2016. Chief Williams also has an extensive background in working with disadvantaged youth. While with the Cincinnati Police Department, Chief Williams' passion for mentoring young people landed him an on-loan assignment as President and CEO of a multimillion dollar youth organization.

“Career Day 2016 and programs like it really make a difference,” said Chief Williams. “We are constantly compet-



Chief Williams in laughter with students

ing for our kids’ attention against the negative activities in the streets. A win today is a victory for tomorrow in seeing our young people become productive members of society vs. criminal statistics. That’s my driving force.”

According to Mrs. Granger, Career Day 2016 was an overwhelming success. “Students went home telling their parents what they wanted to be,” Mrs. Granger said. “And for weeks, students were coming up to me telling me that they were going to be a this or a that; Mrs. Granger you’ll be calling me

Doctor so and so one day.”

Beyond Career Day 2016, Mrs. Granger mentioned how Dr. Duncan even had students and their parents over to his home. There was food, fun and more one-on-ones with professionals.

“The program really set a nice climate at our school,” said Mrs. Granger. “The impact of a few minutes with professionals that they can relate to, who look like them, goes a long way. No excuses. They can dream big and excel.” ■

## Evidence Division Provides Key Support for RBPB

Evidence has a growing and critical role to play in today’s criminal, and some civil trials. Thanks to modern technology, the growing use of forensic evidence has added a new dimension to police work. Investigations require that evidence is collected, preserved, scientifically analyzed, and readily available when needed.

To ensure that physical evidence is available for trial involves developing and maintaining processes for safely storing evidence where it can’t be damaged or contaminated, and organizing it so it can be retrieved when needed. That’s the job of the RBPB’s Evidence Division, which is staffed by Ms. Charrin Hanson, Evidence Technician and Ms. Renee Bassett, Police Technician.

RBPB has its own storage facilities for evidence. Items as large as bicycles are

stored at headquarters. Vehicles are stored offsite in a warehouse. Every Tuesday and Thursday, the Crime Scene Division is responsible for dropping off evidence to the Evidence Division from the week’s criminal activities. Until ‘drop days,’ evidence is kept in special lockers.

Items taken from a person during an arrest that is not part of evidence, are also held in the lockers and dropped off to the Evidence Division on drop days for safe keeping. Items confiscated for safe keeping by Road Patrol during traffic incidents also follow this process.

“A challenging week is not only when there is a large number of crimes during the week, but also the number of pieces of evidence collected from the crime scenes,” said Ms. Hanson. “But I love the challenge. Each piece must be

put into the computer, given a case number and then an appropriate storage space has to be found – all within a couple of days.”

Before evidence goes to court, attorneys on both sides generally want to see the evidence. The attorneys contact the detective in charge of the case and the detective contacts the Evidence Division. The Evidence Division prepares the evidence



Ms. Charrin Hanson in storage bins area with DNA boxes

(Continued on page 3)

## CONGRATULATING PROMOTIONS

### Name

Steven Thomas  
Travis Walker  
Nathan Gordon  
Glen Meyer

### Position

To Major of Police  
To Major of Police  
To Captain of Police  
To Captain of Police

### Name

Kyle Christoffel  
Melvin Menard  
Jennifer Nubin

### Position

To Sergeant of Police  
To Sergeant of Police  
To Sergeant of Police



## RBPD Officer is Police Academy's Valedictorian

Since he was a little boy, Christopher (Chris) Francis dreamed of being a police officer. Pursuing his dream, he enrolled in and graduated from The Criminal Justice Academy at Jupiter Community High School.

Chris was hired by RBPD in December 2015 and entered the Police Academy in January, where he graduated on July 12, 2016. As a result of his hard work toward realizing his dream, Chris graduated at the top of his class, earning the honor of being named Class Valedictorian.

"I wanted to work for RBPD because of the experience I would get, the size – it's like a close-knit family - plus it's close to home," said Officer Chris Francis. He plans are to continue his education, and eventually receive a Master's Degree, while moving through the ranks at RBPD. ■



Chief Williams and Officer Chris Francis

## WELCOMING NEW RBPD PERSONNEL

### Name

Morgan Campen  
Carmilia Edwards  
Tina Knight  
Shavon McKinzy

### Position

Crime Analyst  
School Crossing Guard  
School Crossing Guard  
School Crossing Guard

### Name

Olivia Noble-Coalbrooke  
Carrington Sims  
Tyler Stewart

### Position

School Crossing Guard  
Police Technician  
Police Officer

and gives the attorneys a date for the viewing.

State statutes determine how long evidence must be maintained. In cases of homicide, since there is no Statute of Limitations; if not solved, a case (cold case) remains open indefinitely, and the evidence is kept indefinitely.

Items kept for safe keeping are kept up

to 90 days. If a person is incarcerated, items are kept until he / she is released, or, depending on the charge, can be retrieved by someone else. This requires a notarized letter from the incarcerated inmate. In cases of sexual battery or child abuse, no one else can retrieve the items for the inmate. Parents can pick up items for safe keeping in juvenile cases.

"Computers have definitely made the process of creating and maintaining evidence data files a lot easier to manage and much more efficient," said Ms. Hanson. "Ms. Bassett and I are a powerful tag team – backing each other up, both able to handle all aspects of the job." ■

## Year Two 'Trunk or Treat' a Rousing Success

Over 900 kids and parents in attendance enjoyed candy, food, music, games, a haunted house and a lot of fun.



# Middle School Suspension Rates Cut in Half School Performance Level Greatly Improved RBPD's SRO Program Credited with Much of the Success

Take a look at JFK Middle School's statistics and you'll see proof of the success of the Riviera Beach Police Department's programs at that school. The middle school's suspension rate went down dramatically, from 2000 suspension days in one year to 990 suspension days. What's more, the school's performance rating jumped two letter

grades from an 'F' to 'C.' The school has maintained that 'C' rating for two consecutive years, and plans to achieve a 'B' next year.



Principal Corey Brooks

"There is a direct correlation between the Riviera Beach Police Department's (RBPD) School Resource Officer (SRO) program and reduced student suspensions and the school's improved performance," said Mr. Corey Brooks, Principal of JFK Middle School. "The SROs and the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training) program they teach have made all the difference in the world. Kids are spending more time in class learning instead of being on suspension and in the streets causing problems."

The Middle School has a high percentage of at-risk students. Over 97 percent of the students are on the free lunch program and many of the students are homeless, living in group homes or foster homes.

Studies have shown, and are confirmed

by Mr. Brooks, that middle school (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade), in particular, 6<sup>th</sup> graders, is when kids begin flirting with the idea of joining gangs. Intervention at this age is crucial for at-risk students.

According to Mr. Brooks, prior to the SRO Program, many of the students had a negative impression of Police because of the derogatory comments they hear, and negative situations they or their friends may have gotten into, requiring Police involvement.

"Since SROs have been on campus, students have established relationships with the officers and now look at them in a completely different way," said Mr. Brooks. "They've found that Police Officers are human too – good people, with families. They've learned the nature of a Police Officer's job is to serve and protect, not to harass, and that it's also a career they can go into."

"There is no doubt that our SROs have a good rapport with many of the students," said Rochelet Commond, RBPD Sergeant and SRO Supervisor. "We are seeing fewer fights and students applying coping skills they've learned in our G.R.E.A.T. classes. We've also found that they are more apt to come to us with problem situations."

Sergeant Commond gave an example of this rapport at work when an 11-year-old student went to an SRO and said that

he did something real bad. The officer asked what he did? He confessed to suffocating his 6-month-old nephew.

This case was originally ruled death by natural causes, but, with the confession, the case was reopened as a homicide. "As bad as this situation is, by the fact the student chose to go to an SRO instead of a teacher, counselor or parent, demonstrates the type of relationship we've established with many of the students," said Sergeant Commond.

The G.R.E.A.T. Program is taught at the elementary and middle school levels and specifically tailored for each grade.

For the 2015 /16 school year, RBPD's SROs were honored by receiving Palm Beach County G.R.E.A.T. Recognition for teaching the program to more students than any other city in the county, with over 600 Riviera Beach students participating. The award was presented by the Palm Beach County chapter of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. ■



SROs holding Palm Beach County G.R.E.A.T. Recognition certificates. Pictured left to right: Acting Asst Chief Leonard Mitchell, Ofc Walter Terrell, Ofc Verley Moyton, Sgt Rochelet Commond, Ofc Nodane Cherisma, Ofc Ashley Puckett, and Chief Clarence Williams

## Riviera Beach Police Department

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police@rivierabch.com

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561-845-4128

**Hashtag: #serviceisjobone**

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**visit us**  
www.rivierabch.com/police

**stop in and see us**  
Chief's Night In, every Tuesday  
5:00 - 7:00 pm  
600 West Blue Heron Blvd.  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404